

Waste Reduction display kit



The waste reduction display kit helps educators explain the environmental and financial benefits to reducing waste. The display offers suggestions on how to reduce waste in purchasing and highlights how to choose recyclable and reusable packaging when shopping. The kit is contained in a single plastic storage box. The display kit is adaptable for groups of all ages and sizes. The display contains:

- Examples of disposable and reusable packaging
- Examples of bulk and single serving packaging
- Print materials to assist in easily identifying recyclable containers/packaging

Objective: Individuals can identify recyclable, reusable and non-recyclable materials. Individuals will apply knowledge to select items that create less waste, and to reuse items.

Overview: The Waste Reduction display will increase the individual's knowledge on how packaging and reusable items make up a large percentage of household trash. A desired outcome is that individuals will take what they learn home and when shopping select items with less waste, select items that can be recycled or reused at the end of life.

Background information:

It is important to keep all recyclables out of the trash. The ***Can I recycle it?*** factsheet is a comprehensive, straightforward reference for residents to identify recyclable materials for curbside collection. The guide contains a list of common household recyclables, categorized by material type in a "yes/no" format according to if the item can be recycled in a curbside residential recycling bin, or not.

Much of the waste we throw away is in packaging. In fact, we throw away 70.6 million tons of packaging into landfills each year, which makes up over 34% of what is in the landfills. Much of the packaging thrown in the trash can be recycled. Containers and packaging such as cereal boxes, soup cans, soda bottles, shampoo bottles and toothpaste boxes can be recycled in your home recycling bin. Choosing containers that can be reused also reduces the amount of trash in landfills.

In addition to recycling packaging, we can make smart choices when buying things so that we do not have so much packaging. Making smart decisions such as purchasing items that are reusable can reduce much of the packaging we throw away or recycle. Choosing a reusable coffee mug, water bottle or no waste lunch kit can make it easy to reduce every-day trash.

Beyond packaging, items that are still in good condition also should not go into the trash. Consider reuse and donation items for items that are still in good condition. There are several local options to donate clothing and household items for reuse. Consider using the Twin Cities Free Market, a free online exchange for household items you no longer use. NOTE: Paint and household chemicals can be brought to The Dakota County Recycling Zone. A reuse shelf is managed to provide reuse opportunities for paint and usable household chemicals at no charge.

Supplies and Materials:

The following materials are available for a display/booth with or without an educator:

- Dakota County ***Why Reduce Waste?*** floor/tabletop banner
- Dakota County ***Why Reuse?*** floor/tabletop banner
- Waste reduction Show & Tell
- Print materials

- ***Can I recycle It?*** factsheet
- ***For Residents at The Recycling Zone*** brochure

Pictures and Descriptions

Dakota County *Why Reduce Waste?* floor/tabletop banner

Contents:

- One (1) carrying case
- One (1) retractable banner
- One (1) retractable pole

Dimensions

- 36" wide x 85" tall – floor height
- 36" wide x 60" tall – tabletop height
- 36" x 12" deep in carrying case
- Approximately 15 pounds

Instructions

- Pull from base to desired height (floor height shown below).
- Insert one end of the retractable pole into the clip on the top of the sign.
- Insert the opposite end of the retractable pole into the hole on the banner base.



Dakota County *Why Reuse?* floor/tabletop banner

Contents:

- One (1) carrying case
- One (1) retractable banner

- One (1) retractable pole

Dimensions

- 36" wide x 85" tall – floor height
- 36" wide x 60" tall – tabletop height
- 36" x 12" deep in carrying case
- Approximately 15 pounds

Instructions

- Pull from base to desired height (floor height shown below)
- Insert one end of the retractable pole into the clip on the top of the sign
- Insert the opposite end of the retractable pole into the hole on the banner base



Waste reduction Show & Tell – suggested, need to develop

Contents:

- Display signs
 - Disposable
 - Reusable
 - Single serving vs. bulk packaging
- Disposables
 - Paper lunch bag
 - Bottled water
 - Disposable coffee cup with lid
 - Paper/plastic grocery bag
- Reusable items
 - Cloth lunch bag
 - Water bottle

- Cloth shopping bag
- Travel coffee mug
- Single serving vs. bulk packaging

Instructions

- Display materials on the table according to sign description – reusable and disposable and single serving vs. bulk
- Reference how the single serving packing costs more and creates more waste than bulk packaging

Print Materials

Can I recycle it? factsheet (single sided, 8 ½" x11")

Instructions

- Identifies materials that residents in Dakota County can recycle in their curbside recycling bin provided by their hauler
- Contact Dakota County Environmental Management for desired quantities or electronic file



Can I recycle it?

| Plastic | Glass | Metal | Paper |
|---|--|--|---|
| YES:  <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plastic bottles and jugs• Water, soda and juice bottles• Milk and juice jugs• Ketchup and salad dressing bottles• Dishwashing bottles and detergent jugs• Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles NO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Margarine, cottage cheese, cream cheese and other tubs• Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups• Microwaveable food trays• Produce, deli and take out containers• Plastic wrap and bags*• Toys• Containers that hold hazardous automotive and yard products, such as motor oil and pesticides <small>* Plastic shopping bags are recyclable at many local grocery stores.</small> | YES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Glass food and beverage bottles and jars NO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drinking glasses, mugs, dishes, crockware, pottery and vases• Window and mirror glass• Containers that hold hazardous products, such as nail polish and holiday paints | YES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Metal food and beverage cans NO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paint cans• Aerosol cans• Containers that held hazardous products, such as paint thinner and automotive fluids | YES: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mail, office and school papers• Magazines and catalogs• Newspapers and inserts• Phone books• Shredded paper in closed paper bags• Cardboard boxes• Cereal boxes, cracker boxes, pasta boxes, cake mix boxes• Boxes from toothpaste, medications and other toiletries NO: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pizza boxes, egg cartons or boxes soiled with food• Boxes from refrigerated or frozen foods• Paper towels, napkins, cups and plates• Gift wrap <small>Note: Do not place recyclables in plastic bags.</small> |

The energy it takes to recycle is nothing compared to the energy it saves.

For example: It takes 95% less energy to make aluminum cans from recycled material than it does to produce them from scratch—blast a single can and it's like burning 6 ounces of gasoline. Every can, every bottle, every piece of paper counts. Recycle more.

RETHINK RECYCLING.
RethinkRecycling.com

Your guide for waste & recycling in the Twin Cities.

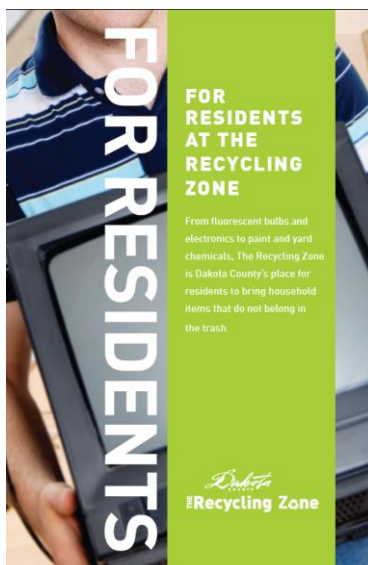
DAKOTA COUNTY RECYCLES
www.dakotacountyrecycles.com
651.591.1508

Printed on a minimum of 30% recycled content paper.

For Residents at The Recycling Zone brochure (four page, 5 ½" x8")

Instructions

- For materials (such as electronics, fluorescent bulbs and household chemicals) that are not recyclable curbside, offer the brochure to residents for a complete listing of materials collected, hours and directions to The Recycling Zone. NOTE: Reusable paint and household chemicals are placed on a reuse shelf at The Recycling Zone to provide reuse opportunities at no charge.
- Consider using the Twin Cities Free Market, a free online exchange for household items you no longer use.
- Contact Dakota County Environmental Management for desired quantities



FOR RESIDENTS AT THE RECYCLING ZONE

From fluorescent bulbs and electronics to paint and yard chemicals, The Recycling Zone is Dakota County's place for residents to bring household items that do not belong in the trash.

FOR RESIDENTS

RECYCLING ZONE

Dakota County

NOTE: Dakota County provides a number of resources for teachers, students, community groups, and other organizations to help with education and outreach on a variety of environmental topics. The resources are available for check out to formal and informal educators in Dakota County for a maximum of three weeks. To reserve education resources, please contact us at 952-891-7000. Environmental education resources include:

- Educational display kits for The Recycling Zone, residential recycling, toxicity reduction, and waste reduction
- Educational activity kits for Recycling BINGO, make a green cleaner, and Recycling Wheel
- Learning kits for recycling and groundwater
- Pull-up banners for toxicity reduction, The Recycling Zone, residential recycling, waste reduction, and waste reuse